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## GENERAL NOTES.

Professor FRANK W. DYSON, F. R. S., Astronomer Royal, was recently honored with the degree of LL.D. by the University of Edinburgh.

*Notes from "Science."*—The University of La Plata and the University of Michigan have arranged for co-operation in the work of their astronomical observatories. Professor W. J. HUSSEY has been appointed director of La Plata Observatory, but is still to remain director of the observatory of the University of Michigan. He will divide his time equally between the two institutions, spending the second semester of each year at Ann Arbor. Mr. R. P. LAMONT, of Chicago, is furnishing a 24-inch refracting telescope for the University of Michigan. It is the intention to take this instrument, when completed, to a favorable site in Argentina, and while it is there to have it used under the joint auspices of the two universities.

Professor GIUSEPPE MERCALLI has been appointed director of the observatory on Mount Vesuvius, to succeed Professor MATTEUCCI.

Dr. LEWIS BOSS, director of the Dudley Observatory and of the department of meridian astronomy of the Carnegie Institution, has been elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg.

The expedition that was sent to Argentina two and one-half years ago under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution for the purpose of making meridian measurements of position of stars down to the seventh magnitude that are south of  $-20^{\circ}$  of declination, and generally inaccessible for exact measurement at observatories of the northern hemisphere, has completed its meridian work. In 1909 and 1910 about 87,000 meridian-determinations of positions were made with precision. The observations were conducted on a fundamental basis, and correspond to others to be secured at the Dudley Observatory at Albany as an integral part of the entire enterprise. The instruments were shipped to Albany from Buenos Aires early in March, and the members of the staff, of which Professor RICHARD H. TUCKER is director, are arriving at various times.

Dr. OSTEN BERGSTRAND, for some time observer of the Upsala Observatory, Sweden, has been appointed professor of astronomy in the Upsala University and director of the observatory.

At midnight on March 10th the clocks at the railway stations and all government offices and municipal buildings of France and Algeria were set back nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds, to bring them in accord with Greenwich time, which is now used in all countries of western Europe except Portugal and Ireland.

At Smith College HARRIET W. BIGELOW has been promoted to be professor of astronomy.

At Princeton University Dr. H. N. RUSSELL has been promoted to be professor of astronomy.

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At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences on April 20th nine persons were elected to membership and among these were EDWARD EMERSON BARNARD, astronomer, Yerkes Observatory, and JOHN FILLMORE HAYFORD, director of the College of Engineering, Northwestern University. At the annual dinner of the Academy on April 19th the Draper Gold Medal was presented to Mr. C. G. ABBOT, of the Smithsonian Institution, for his researches on the infra-red region of the solar spectrum and his accurate measurements, by improved devices, of the solar constant.

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*Royal Astronomical Society.*—The annual general meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society was held at Burlington House February 12th, Sir DAVID GILL, F. R. S., the retiring president, being in the chair.

The president, in his address, gave the grounds on which the gold medal of the society was awarded to Dr. P. H. COWELL, formerly chief assistant at the Greenwich Observatory, and now director of the Nautical Almanac. Dr. COWELL's contributions to the lunar theory were of a most important character, and he had done much useful work in other branches of gravitational astronomy. In conjunction with Dr. CROMMELIN, he undertook a complete investigation of the path of Halley's Comet from the earliest times. Dr. COWELL in the course of his work developed new and simplified methods of calculation, whereby the computations necessary, though still sometimes long, were greatly abridged.

Mr. F. W. DYSON, F. R. S., the Astronomer-Royal, was elected president; Sir W. ABNEY, Mr. E. B. KNOBEL, Mr. W. H. MAW, and

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Professor H. H. TURNER were elected vice-presidents; and the treasurer, Major E. H. HILLS, and the two secretaries, Mr. A. R. HINKS and Mr. S. A. SAUNDER, were re-elected, whilst the retiring president, Sir DAVID GILL, was appointed foreign secretary in succession to the late Sir. W. HUGGINS. . . .

A model of the moving cluster of stars in *Taurus*, detected by Professor LEWIS BOSS, showing the true relative positions of its members and the Sun's place with regard to its members, was exhibited in the library.—*The Times*.